

DEFENDANT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A CRIMINAL ACTION - IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT
 BY: ☐ COMPLAINT ☒ INFORMATION ☐ INDICTMENT
☐ SUPERSEDING
OFFENSE CHARGED
 18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A) –
 Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal
 Funds (Five Counts); 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C),
 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) – Forfeiture

☐ Petty
☐ Minor
☐ Misdemeanor
☒ Felony

 PENALTY: Each count: 10 years imprisonment; 3 years supervised release;
 \$250,000 fine or twice the gross gain or loss, whichever is greater
 \$100 mandatory special assessment and forfeiture

Name of District Court, and/or Judge/Magistrate Location

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

OAKLAND DIVISION

DEFENDANT - U.S.

DESONDRA MICHELL WARD

DISTRICT COURT NUMBER

CR15-00532

DEFENDANT**IS NOT IN CUSTODY**

- 1)
- ☒
- Has not been arrested, pending outcome this proceeding.
-
- If not detained give date any prior summons was served on above charges

- 2)
- ☐
- Is a Fugitive

- 3)
- ☐
- Is on Bail or Release from (show District)

IS IN CUSTODY

- 4)
- ☐
- On this charge

- 5)
- ☐
- On another conviction

☐ Federal ☐ State

- 6)
- ☐
- Awaiting trial on other charges

If answer to (6) is "Yes", show name of institution

 Has detainer ☐ Yes
 been filed? ☐ No

 If "Yes"
 give date
 filed
DATE OF ARREST

Month/Day/Year

Or... if Arresting Agency & Warrant were not

DATE TRANSFERRED TO U.S. CUSTODY

Month/Day/Year

☐ This report amends AO 257 previously submitted**PROCEEDING**

Name of Complainant Agency, or Person (& Title, if any)

Federal Bureau of Investigation

☐ person is awaiting trial in another Federal or State Court,
 give name of court

☐ this person/proceeding is transferred from another district
 per (circle one) FRCrp 20, 21, or 40. Show District

☐ this is a reprosecution of
 charges previously dismissed
 which were dismissed on motion
 of:
SHOW
DOCKET NO.☐ U.S. ATTORNEY ☐ DEFENSE
☐ this prosecution relates to a
 pending case involving this same
 defendant
MAGISTRATE
CASE NO.
☐ prior proceedings or appearance(s)
 before U.S. Magistrate regarding this
 defendant were recorded under

Name and Office of Person

Furnishing Information on this form BRIAN J. STRETCH

☒ U.S. Attorney ☐ Other U.S. Agency

Name of Assistant U.S.

Attorney (if assigned)

Andrew Huang (AUSA)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR COMMENTS**PROCESS:**☐ SUMMONS ☒ NO PROCESS* ☐ WARRANT

Bail Amount: _____

If Summons, complete following:

☐ Arraignment ☐ Initial Appearance

Defendant Address:

 * Where defendant previously apprehended on complaint, no new summons or
 warrant needed, since Magistrate has scheduled arraignment

Date/Time: _____ Before Judge: _____

Comments:

BRIAN J. STRETCH (CABN 163973)
Acting United States Attorney

FILED

NOV 16 2015

SUSAN Y. SOONG
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

JSW

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

DESONDRA MICHELL WARD,

Defendant.

No. CR

CR15-00532

VIOLATIONS: 18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A) –
Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal
Funds (Five Counts); 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C),
28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) – Forfeiture

OAKLAND VENUE

INFORMATION

The United States Attorney charges:

INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At all times relevant to this Information, unless otherwise specified:

1. Established in 1968, the Lawrence Hall of Science (“LHS”) was a department or unit of the University of California, Berkeley (“U.C. Berkeley”), and functioned as U.C. Berkeley’s public science center.

2. The mission of LHS was to inspire and foster learning of science and mathematics for all, especially those who have limited access to science. Among its programs to accomplish this mission, LHS established a program known as the Full Option Science System (“FOSS”), with the assistance of the National Science Foundation, an independent agency of the federal government.

3. The FOSS program developed and maintained a science curriculum for elementary and middle school students and also undertook research to improve the learning and teaching of science.

4. U.C. Berkeley was a subdivision of the California state government and was, therefore, a “government agency” within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 666(d)(2). U.C. Berkeley, during each calendar year from 2008 through 2014, received benefits in excess of \$10,000 under programs of the federal government, including grants, contracts, subsidies, loans, guarantees, insurance, and other forms of federal assistance. For LHS, 25% of its annual budget was comprised of federal funds.

5. The defendant, DESONDRA MICHELL WARD, was an employee of U.C. Berkeley from on or about June 18, 2007, through on or about March 9, 2015, and was, therefore, an “agent” of the California state government within the meaning 18 U.S.C. § 666(d)(1).

6. Defendant WARD initially served as an administrative assistant for the FOSS program until in or about July 2011, when she was re-assigned to the LHS financial team as a financial analyst. As a financial analyst, defendant WARD continued to perform certain administrative duties for the FOSS program and also had budget and finance responsibilities for FOSS and other LHS programs.

COUNT ONE: (18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A) – Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds)

7. Paragraphs One through Six are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

8. Beginning on or about January 1, 2010, and continuing through on or about December 31, 2010, in the Northern District of California, and elsewhere, the defendant,

DESONDRA MICHELL WARD,

being an agent of the University of California, Berkeley, an agency of a State government, said agency receiving in the one year period beginning January 1, 2010, benefits in excess of \$10,000 under Federal programs involving grants, contracts, subsidies, loans, guarantees, insurance, and other forms of Federal assistance, embezzled, stole, obtained by fraud, without authority knowingly converted to the use of a person not the rightful owner, and intentionally misapplied property worth at least \$5,000 owned by and under the care, custody, and control of such government agency, that is, approximately \$79,765.75 in U.C. Berkeley funds and air tickets and other travel expenses purchased by such funds, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(A).

1 COUNT TWO: (18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A) – Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds)

2 9. Paragraphs One through Six are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

3 10. Beginning on or about January 1, 2011, and continuing through on or about December
4 31, 2011, in the Northern District of California, and elsewhere, the defendant,

5 DESONDRA MICHELL WARD,

6 being an agent of the University of California, Berkeley, an agency of a State government, said agency
7 receiving in the one year period beginning January 1, 2011, benefits in excess of \$10,000 under Federal
8 programs involving grants, contracts, subsidies, loans, guarantees, insurance, and other forms of Federal
9 assistance, embezzled, stole, obtained by fraud, without authority knowingly converted to the use of a
10 person not the rightful owner, and intentionally misapplied property worth at least \$5,000 owned by and
11 under the care, custody, and control of such government agency, that is, approximately \$71,016.71 in
12 U.C. Berkeley funds and air tickets and other travel expenses purchased by such funds, in violation of
13 Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(A).

14
15 COUNT THREE: (18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A) – Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds)

16 11. Paragraphs One through Six are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

17 12. Beginning on or about January 1, 2012, and continuing through on or about December
18 31, 2012, in the Northern District of California, and elsewhere, the defendant,

19 DESONDRA MICHELL WARD,

20 being an agent of the University of California, Berkeley, an agency of a State government, said agency
21 receiving in the one year period beginning January 1, 2012, benefits in excess of \$10,000 under Federal
22 programs involving grants, contracts, subsidies, loans, guarantees, insurance, and other forms of Federal
23 assistance, embezzled, stole, obtained by fraud, without authority knowingly converted to the use of a
24 person not the rightful owner, and intentionally misapplied property worth at least \$5,000 owned by and
25 under the care, custody, and control of such government agency, that is, approximately \$57,635.49 in
26 U.C. Berkeley funds and air tickets and other travel expenses purchased by such funds, in violation
27 of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(A).

1 COUNT FOUR: (18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A) – Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds)

2 13. Paragraphs One through Six are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

3 14. Beginning on or about January 1, 2013, and continuing through on or about December
4 31, 2013, in the Northern District of California, and elsewhere, the defendant,

5 DESONDRA MICHELL WARD,

6 being an agent of the University of California, Berkeley, an agency of a State government, said agency
7 receiving in the one year period beginning January 1, 2013, benefits in excess of \$10,000 under Federal
8 programs involving grants, contracts, subsidies, loans, guarantees, insurance, and other forms of Federal
9 assistance, embezzled, stole, obtained by fraud, without authority knowingly converted to the use of a
10 person not the rightful owner, and intentionally misapplied property worth at least \$5,000 owned by and
11 under the care, custody, and control of such government agency, that is, approximately \$51,623.63 in
12 U.C. Berkeley funds and air tickets and other travel expenses purchased by such funds, in violation of
13 Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(A).

14
15 COUNT FIVE: (18 U.S.C. § 666(a)(1)(A) – Theft Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds)

16 15. Paragraphs One through Six are hereby re-alleged and incorporated herein by reference.

17 16. Beginning on or about January 1, 2014, and continuing through on or about December
18 31, 2014, in the Northern District of California, and elsewhere, the defendant,

19 DESONDRA MICHELL WARD,

20 being an agent of the University of California, Berkeley, an agency of a State government, said agency
21 receiving in the one year period beginning January 1, 2014, benefits in excess of \$10,000 under Federal
22 programs involving grants, contracts, subsidies, loans, guarantees, insurance, and other forms of Federal
23 assistance, embezzled, stole, obtained by fraud, without authority knowingly converted to the use of a
24 person not the rightful owner, and intentionally misapplied property worth at least \$5,000 owned by and
25 under the care, custody, and control of such government agency, that is, approximately \$48,776.00 in
26 U.C. Berkeley funds and air tickets and other travel expenses purchased by such funds, in violation of
27 Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(A).

1 FORFEITURE ALLEGATION: (18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C), 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c) – Criminal Forfeiture)

2 17. The allegations contained in Paragraphs One through Sixteen of this Information are
3 hereby realleged and incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeiture pursuant to Title
4 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C), and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

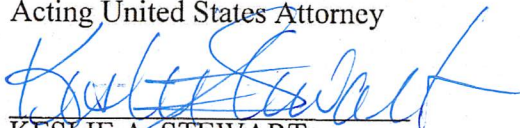
5 18. Upon conviction of an offense set forth in Counts One through Five of this Information,
6 the defendant,

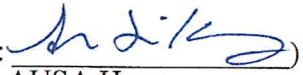
7 DESONDRA MICHELL WARD,
8 shall forfeit to the United States of America, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section
9 981(a)(1)(C), any property, real or personal, that constitutes or is derived, directly or indirectly, from
10 gross proceeds traceable to the commission of the offenses, including, but not limited to, a money
11 judgment of \$308,817.58.

12 19. If any of the property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:
13 a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
14 b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
15 c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
16 d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
17 e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,
18 the United States of America shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to Title 21,
19 United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c).

20
21 DATED:

BRIAN J. STRETCH
Acting United States Attorney


KESLIE A. STEWART
Chief, Oakland Branch

22
23
24
25
26 (Approved as to form: )

AUSA Huang